

PRESIDENT: May we have some order in the Chamber, please. Listen to the closing (gavel) argument on LB 290.

SENATOR HARRIS: I will close very quickly. I appreciate the comments that are made. I guess this is one of our decision points for this session as to which direction we are headed on the spending, as Senator Warner has pointed out. I understand the financial constraints that are going to be put before us, as a yoke around our neck, as much as anyone in this Legislature. But we do have certain things to consider that are right, and fair, and just, and I believe that this is one of them. It has been said that there are things we can't afford. I agree with that, but I think this is one of those things that we need to afford. When you get down to the bottom line, there are some things that we might be able to cut out in order to make room for this particular expenditure. Also I want to point out that this is at least the tenth time that I have heard about this bill being the Pandora's Box being opened. Also I want to point out that the sky is not falling when you have this sort of legislation put forward. I'm sure the same things were said back in 1977 when an adjustment was made for these people and a precedent was set for such adjustments. Yet it did not open up the floodgates of spending and have everyone coming down here asking for special legislation. It is simply a matter of justice because in 1977 the Legislature increased the pension amount for these old University retirees. The increase was designed to match the salary increases granted to the working University employees at the time. They were designed to thwart the devastating effects of inflation. In 1977, when the increase in benefits was granted to 915 old University retirees, they were members of the 1961 plan, pre-1961 plan. The numbers are dwindling. In my opinion this is something that we should do. This is something that is right, and fair, and just. Mr. President, I move that we advance this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Motion is to advance LB 290 from General File. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The vote will be...I'll ask the Clerk to record the vote on this measure in another 20 seconds. Please vote aye or nay on the advancement of LB 290. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote. Record vote requested.

CLERK: (Read record vote found on pages 615-16 of the